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# Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2689

November 25, 1994

**NO ADDITIONAL DAIRY REDUCTION** -- USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation announced (November 18) that the estimate of surplus dairy products to be removed from the commercial market during calendar year 1995 is 6.4 billion pounds on a total milk solids basis. Since the surplus is less than 7.0 billion pounds, no additional reduction in milk prices paid to farmers will be necessary. The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, requires CCC to estimate the dairy surplus for the coming calendar year and notify Congress of the estimate by November 20. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**'94 TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** -- Sign-up is underway for the Department of Agriculture's 1994 Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Sign-up for the disaster assistance program will be held from November 21 through March 31, 1995. USDA will reimburse eligible small and medium scale commercial tree and nursery inventory growers for up to 65 percent of the average reestablishment costs. Any losses that exceed 35 percent after adjustment for normal mortality will be covered. To be eligible, each grower of orchard trees must own 500 acres or less, and each grower of forest trees must own 1,000 acres or less. The Farm Service Agency, which administers the TAP, will disburse the payments after applications have been approved by the local FSA offices. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**AUSTRALIAN BEEF HELD** -- Shipments of beef from sections of Australia won't be allowed into the United States until they are determined to be free of chemical residues. The Food Safety and Inspection Service is testing the meat for residues left over from crop by-products fed to cattle in drought stricken areas. Scientists are looking for chlorfluazuron, which is not registered for use in the U.S. The Australian government notified USDA officials that small traces of the chemical were found during routine monitoring of beef samples. Beef from 63 Australian plants is being held until test results are confirmed. **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

**JOINT JOBS PROGRAM HELPS HABITAT** -- USDA and the Department of Commerce (DOC) announced (November 21) an interagency agreement to implement a \$6 million jobs program focusing on Pacific Northwest habitat restoration. This is one part of DOC's \$12 million Northwest Emergency Assistance Plan for dislocated salmon fishermen in the Pacific Northwest. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment James Lyons says, "This program demonstrates how Federal agencies are quickly responding to community economic and natural resource needs in the Pacific Northwest." The program will work with state agencies, conservation districts, tribal governments, and other nonprofit organizations to restore key watersheds on private lands. **Contact: Christine Williams (202) 720-7570.**

**NATIONAL RURAL CONFERENCE** -- Because of the GATT vote and other scheduling conflicts, the National Rural Conference scheduled for December, 1994 has been postponed until the first part of 1995. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy said, "The administration is committed to working together with rural Americans and looks forward to this opportunity for open dialogue." The conference will be moderated by President Clinton. **Contact: Jim Brownlee (202) 720-2091.**

**AG LIBRARY IN EGYPT --** USDA's National Agriculture Library is assisting the government of Egypt in establishing an Egyptian National Library (ENAL) in Cairo. Since 1987, NAL has been providing Egypt with technical assistance and staff training as the Egyptian government moves ahead in developing ENAL. NAL Acting Director Pamela Andre said, "Over the years we've hosted a number of Egyptian librarians and agricultural specialists from the ENAL staff." Other training included instruction in developing statistics, scheduling library staff, and using NAL's AGRICOLA bibliographic database. The Egyptian government is planning to open its National Agricultural Library in 1995. **Contact: Brian Norris (301) 504-6778.**

**ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY --** USDA announced (November 22) that it has quarantined 59 square miles of the Florence area of Los Angeles County due to an Oriental fruit fly infestation. Deputy Administrator for Plant Protection and Quarantine in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service B. Glen Lee said, "Fruits and vegetables that can harbor this pest are restricted from leaving the quarantined area to prevent the Oriental fruit fly from spreading into non-infested areas in the U.S." The Oriental fruit fly is a destructive pest of citrus and other types of fruit, nuts and vegetables. Heavy infestations can cause complete loss of crops. **Contact: Ed Curlett (301) 436-7799.**

**EGYPT ELIGIBLE FOR MORE WHEAT --** Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy announced (November 18) that Egypt is eligible for an additional 1,300,000 metric tons of wheat under USDA's Export Enhancement Program. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in these markets. Sales of wheat will be made to buyers in Egypt through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. The export sale will be facilitated with cash bonus payments. **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

**ANIMAL SCIENTIST WINS AWARD --** Animal physiologist Lawrence A. Johnson of Beltsville, Md., who developed technology to preselect gender of animals, has been named "Distinguished Scientist of 1994" by the Agricultural Research Service. The award is the agency's highest scientific honor. Johnson is research leader for the Germplasm and Gamete Physiology Laboratory at the ARS Beltsville Agriculture Research Center. He is being honored for his adaptation of flow cytometry and laser technology to differentiate between Y-chromosome sperm that produce males versus X-chromosome sperm that produce females. The award also recognizes Johnson's role as co-developer of a method to preserve swine sperm by freezing. **Contact: Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-2764.**

**USDA NAMES DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CIVIL RIGHTS --** Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy has appointed Jetie Wilds as Deputy Director of the Office of Civil Rights Enforcement for USDA. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy said, "The Office of Civil Rights Enforcement plays a key role in providing leadership, direction, and coordination for USDA's civil rights program, including program compliance, equal employment opportunity, and special emphasis programs. Wild's 28 years of civil rights and management experience will make him a vital asset to the USDA Team." **Contact: Hector Mimiaga (202) 720-4200.**

**TRADE SURPLUS FALLS --** The U.S. agricultural trade surplus fell \$102 million dollars in September, down to \$1.2 billion. That puts the Fiscal Year 1994 agricultural trade surplus at \$17 billion, down \$600 million from last year. While agricultural exports nearly broke a record, imports did break records, accounting for the drop in the trade surplus. **Contact: Tom Capehart (202) 219-1262.**



## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

**AGRICULTURE USA # 1956** -- Playing the farming game is the topic for this week's edition of Agriculture USA. Gary Crawford talks with the inventor of "The Farming Game" along with a USDA official in charge of helping emerging democracies like Russia. (Weekly cassette -- 13-1/2 minute documentary).

**CONSUMER TIME # 1437** -- Ham for the holidays; going nuts for the holidays; debt consolidation loans; bankruptcy: the only way out of debt?; food gifts from afar. (Weekly cassette -- 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features).

**AGRITAPE FEATURES # 1946** -- The decline of the sheep; turkey producers: a pretty good year; Tree Assistance Program; farming game for Russia; dairy surplus. (Weekly cassette -- news features).

**UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** -- As we go to press with this issue, Congress is still scheduled to debate and vote on the GATT World Trade Agreement November 30 and December 1. We will cover the debate and offer stories on the newslines. Other upcoming stories are: Wednesday, November 30, ag prices report; Thursday, December 1, GATT coverage, horticultural export update; Tuesday, December 6, crop/weather update; Friday, December 9, U.S. crop production, supply/demand report (\*\*Note: USDA will have only one release time for crop production and supply/demand for December crop reports. It will be at 3:00 p.m. EST, so our newslines will change only at the usual 5:00 p.m. time. There will be no 10:30 a.m. change for December). **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carry many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

**USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.**

**COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545**

Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

## FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

**FEATURES** -- Pat O'Leary reports on guayule rubber research and DeBorja Janifer reports on a "hi-tech" rice that could boost the value of U.S. rice exports.

**ACTUALITIES** -- Excerpts from phone conference with Vice President Gore, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and U.S. farmers on GATT (November 21) and USDA Chief Meteorologist Norton Strommen on the latest weather and crop conditions.

**UPCOMING FEATURES** -- Lynn Wyvill reports on holiday food safety and research on blending wood fiber and plastic to help conserve natural resources.

## SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS:

*Galaxy 7, Transponder 9, Channel 9, Audio 6.2 or 6.8, Downlink frequency 3880 Mhz.  
Available on Thursdays 3:45 - 4:00 p.m., EDT; Mondays 11:00 - 11:15 a.m., EDT.*

## OFF MIKE

**ON THE AIR AGAIN...** **Sonny King** says they're bringing back the farm program at WKRT in Cortland, N.Y. They haven't decided if they'll go with a half hour or a full hour. Along with using the variety of USDA radio programs, he's looking for any additional programming sources he could use on their show.

**DOES ANYONE SPEAK RUSSIAN, MANDARIN....** asks producer **Steven Towell** of shortwave station KNLS out of Anchor Point, Alaska. Broadcasting to Russia, China and other Pacific Rim countries, he says they program two hours of English broadcasting a day. The rest is in Mandarin and Russian. Towell says he's able to use some of USDA programming for the English part of the broadcast. We're sorry but we can't help him with the Russian and Mandarin portions!

**JAPANESE BOMB STORY EXPLODES IN LOUISVILLE...** says **Fred Wiche**, Farm and Garden Director for clear channel radio station WHAS in Louisville, KY. A **Gary Crawford** piece on Japanese balloon bombs falling on the continental United States during World War II sparked heated debate during Wiche's farm show, and later popped up during a local talk show. The story also caught the attention of broadcast veteran **Paul Harvey**, who talked about it during a "Rest of the Story" broadcast.

**WETLANDS TOUR...** **Brenda Curtis** reports that her travels to some of the nation's wetlands went off without a hitch. Brenda covered the debate over the nation's wetlands and a variety of other stories. Brenda visited USDA'S Human Nutrition Lab in Grand Forks, North Dakota and the Agricultural Research Lab in Fargo, and interviewed Extension personnel at North Dakota State University. **Jerry Rostad**, Extension Communications at NDSU, helped with scheduling. Be on the look-out for lots of programming.

**LARRY A. QUINN, Director**  
Video, Teleconference and Radio Center



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